

PATENT

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:
Robert Lance Cook et al.

Serial No.: N/A

Division of S/N: 09/512,895

Filed: Herewith

For: AN APPARATUS FOR
RELEASABLY COUPLING
TWO ELEMENTS

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Examiner: To Be Assigned

Attorney Docket No. 25791.83

Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned

BOX NON FEE AMENDMENT
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir;

Please amend the above entitled patent application as follows:

In The Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-3 and 5-16.

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

4. (Amended) An apparatus for coupling two elements, comprising:

an outer tubular member defining one or more outer tubular member slots;

an inner tubular member defining one or more inner tubular member slots

positioned within the outer tubular member; and

a coupling assembly for releasably coupling the outer tubular member to the inner tubular member, comprising:

a tubular coupling body movably coupled to the inner tubular member;

A1

one or more coupling arms extending from the tubular coupling body; and coupling elements extending from corresponding coupling arms adapted to mate with corresponding outer tubular member and inner tubular member slots.

Remarks

Claims 1-34 were pending.

Claims 1-3 and 5-16 have been canceled.

Claim 4 has been amended.

The Restriction Requirement In The Parent Application S/N 09/512,895:

The examiner required restriction in the parent application, S/N 09/512,895, to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claim 1.
- II. Claims 3 and 16.
- III. Claim 4.
- IV. Claims 2, 5, and 15.
- V. Claims 6, 13, and 14.
- VI. Claim 8.
- VII. Claim 10.
- VIII. Claim 9.
- IX. Claim 11.
- X. Claim 7.
- XI. Claim 12.


In response to the restriction requirement, in the parent application, S/N 09/512,895, the Applicant elected the invention of Group I - claim 1.

As a result, the non-elected inventions of group II - claims 3 and 16; group III - claim 4; group IV - claims 2, 5, and 15; group V - claims 6, 13, and 14; group VI - claim 8; group VII - claim 10; group VIII - claim 9; group IX - claim 11; group X - claim 7; and group XI - claim 12 were canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, to be pursued in corresponding divisional applications.



Age Group	Percentage of Respondents
18-29	85%
30-49	80%
50-69	75%
70+	70%

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Todd Mattingly

Todd Mattingly /
Registration No. 40,298

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50-69	75%
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Amended Claims

4. (Amended) An apparatus for coupling two elements, comprising:
- an outer tubular [support] member [including] defining one or more [support] outer tubular member slots;
 - an inner tubular member [including] defining one or more inner tubular member slots positioned within the outer tubular member; and
 - a coupling assembly for [removably] releasably coupling the outer tubular member to the [support] inner tubular member, [including] comprising:
 - a tubular coupling body movably coupled to the [support] inner tubular member;
 - one or more coupling arms extending from the tubular coupling body; and
 - coupling elements extending from corresponding coupling arms adapted to mate with corresponding [support] outer tubular member and inner tubular member slots.